



Colorado Black Round Table  
*"Strengthening the Black Community"*

## **COLORADO AFRICAN AMERICAN FAMILY COMMISSION**

The purpose of the Colorado African American Family Commission is to advise the Governor, General Assembly and to work with State agencies to improve and expand existing policies, services, programs and opportunities for African American families. The Colorado African American Family Commission shall guide the efforts of and collaborate with State agencies to identify and address disparities.

This shall be achieved by:

1. Monitoring and commenting on existing and proposed legislation and programs designed to address the needs of African Americans in Colorado;
2. Assisting State agencies in developing programs, services, public policies, and research strategies that will expand and enhance the social and economic well-being of African American children and families;
3. Facilitating the participation and representation of African Americans in the development, implementation, and planning of policies, programs, and community-based services; and
4. Promoting research efforts to document the impact of policies and programs on African American families.

**Membership Composition:** The African American Family Commission shall be a twenty-five (25) to thirty-five (35) member body. The members shall be approved and appointed by the Governor, members of the State Legislature and leadership of the African American Community and will include as ex-officio members the heads of State agencies.

## **AFRICAN AMERICAN ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES COMMISSION**

The purpose of the Colorado African American Economic Opportunities Commission is to advise the Governor, General Assembly and to work with State agencies to improve and expand economic opportunities for African American individuals and businesses in the state. The Colorado African American Economic Opportunities Commission shall guide the efforts of and collaborate with State agencies to identify and address economic disparities and target supports to enhance economic opportunity for African Americans in the state through driving economic progress and increasing work, wages and wealth in African American communities.

This shall be achieved by:

1. Monitoring and commenting on existing and proposed legislation and programs designed to address the needs of African American businesses in Colorado;
2. Assisting State agencies in developing programs, services, public policies, and research strategies that will address issues related to unemployment and under-employment;

3. Facilitating the participation and representation of African Americans in the development, implementation, and planning of policies, programs, and community-based services that support African American business development and entrepreneurship;
4. Promoting research efforts to document the impact of policies and programs on African American families;
5. Working with the Office of Economic Development on current opportunities to engage African American business development and opportunities;
6. Strengthening access to the future workforce pipelines by boosting African American participation in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) fields.

**Membership Composition:** The African American Economic Opportunity Commission shall be a fifty (50) member body. The members shall be approved and appointed by the Governor, members of the State Legislature and leadership of the African American Community and will include as ex-officio members the heads of State agencies.

## **NEXT STEPS**

### **FOR GOVERNOR'S OFFICE AND COLORADO BLACK CONCERNS GROUP**

- 1) What is your strategy for establishing an ongoing interface and collaboration with the African-American community as it relates to our needs and interests? Will the approach to our community be the same or more forward-leaning? How will this differ from those of other constituent communities throughout the state?
- 2) How would an ongoing dialogue with the African American community, state - wide be instituted?
- 3) As it relates to formalizing a system for receiving substantive input, impacting the decision-making process, establishing budget and financial priorities, how will this be achieved? This means beyond statutory legislative and government processes, eg., legislation, OMB, etc.
- 4) How will state programs, (including higher education), and funding aimed at addressing general statewide challenges also focus appropriately on the African American community?
- 5) What program and performance measurement criteria will be required of all appointees to reduce and eliminate disparities in public services, programs as well as funding directed, geared to or in the African American community?
- 6) What is the strategy to ensure that the economic explosion in Colorado vis-à-vis our natural resources (fracking) as well as the booming population, economic growth spun by legislation legalizing marijuana in Colorado (and other) is accessible to prospective entrepreneurs of color?
- 7) What other specific actions, legislative or programmatic, have been identified regarding the short term, long term access to the hospitality industry, especially ski resorts, professional sports, as relates to future and immediate entrepreneurial development opportunities in the state?